

Bloomfield Citizen.

WEEKLY JOURNAL

PUBLISHED BY

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THE CITIZEN solicits contributions from the general public on any subject—political, religious, educational, or social—so long as they do not contain any personal attacks.

All communications must be accompanied by the writer's name, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. Advertisements for insertion in the current week must be in hand not later than Friday noon.

SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 1904.

DEFEAT ANNEXATION.

Before another issue of the CITIZEN appears the question of annexation to Newark will be settled one way or another at the polls. The town has been in an uproar over the agitation of this matter for the past four weeks. It has disturbed political, social and church relations in the town to an alarming extent, and it is no doubt sincerely hoped that if the annexationists are defeated at the polls that they will let the annexation question rest, in so far as Bloomfield is concerned, until the people of Newark are ready to adopt the Greater Newark scheme that has been talked about so much of late years.

When this present annexation scheme was first broached the CITIZEN assumed a neutral attitude pending the announcement of the reasons why the town should surrender its independence and be annexed to Newark in advance of other places that Newark is more desirous of acquiring.

Mr. David G. Garabrant, as spokesman for the committee of citizens who favored annexation, made a statement before a special meeting of the Board of Trade in which he set forth the reasons that led to the movement in favor of annexation.

In our opinion, and in the opinion of many citizens who have expressed their views through the columns of this paper, and many others who have verbally expressed their opinions, Mr. Garabrant did not present any more valid reasons for annexation now than did those men whose annexation schemes he so vigorously opposed two years ago.

There being no reason for annexation and no prospect of any particular advantage to Bloomfield to accrue from it, and the whole matter having the appearance of the result of a petty quarrel between members of the Town Council and citizen members of a committee of fifteen, the CITIZEN determined to pursue its consistent opposition to annexation.

But aside from any lack of reasons why the people of this town should vote for annexation, there has recently been brought to light some features of this annexation scheme that tend to show that it is not a Bloomfield movement at all, but that corporate and political influences are behind it.

There are upwards of four miles of Morris Canal property in this town, and it is said to be the real factor at the bottom of the annexation movement.

Geographically the annexation of Bloomfield to Newark is ridiculous, and no man laid greater stress on this fact two years ago than did Mr. Garabrant. He exhibited a map before the Legislative Committee at Trenton two years ago showing the relative geographical positions of Newark and Bloomfield. That map did much to aid the Legislative Committee in reaching the conclusion that annexation was not practical and the bill was killed.

Annexation and an Open Sunday.

Are our people ready and willing to open wide the flood-gates of vice and immorality for the purpose of having this town annexed to Newark? For, as everybody knows, there is an open Sunday in that city, and very few attempts are made to enforce the law. Once in awhile we read of an arrest being made for selling drinks on Sunday. There is a slight fine imposed on the offender; he pays it, but still keeps on selling on Sunday. The good people of this town worked hard to secure an ordinance to close the saloons on Sunday, and they succeeded, and now the Lord's day is a very quiet one here. Shall all this good work come to naught, because a few scheming politicians are willing to dispose of their manhood for political gain? Let the people give an emphatic negative to this question at the polls.

The Three Days' Campaign.

Not many years ago there was a contest among First Ward Republicans over the selection of a candidate for Ward Councilman. One faction in the contest was in the field early with its list of candidates, and it was considered an invincible gilt-edge delegation. The people who were named upon it felt flattered and honored over the representative array of well-known and highly esteemed Bloomfielders who adorned the ticket. That it could be beaten was inconceivable. The ticket was shown to Thomas McGowan, who, at the time, was identified with the opposing faction. Mr. McGowan expressed admiration of the ticket, and his high esteem for the gentlemen named upon it, but, said Mr. McGowan in an off hand way, "I think I can name a ticket three days before the primary is held that will beat that ticket," and three days before the date of the primary the opposition ticket came out, and proved to be the winning ticket.

There will be an attempt made next week to again try the effect of a three days' before election campaign. Public sentiment is now strongly set against annexation. Next Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday will be set apart by Mr. Garabrant and his eleven colleagues in vigorous efforts to reverse the trend of public sentiment, and to start a reaction movement in favor of annexation. All that money, talk and literature can do will be done. Agents now in the pay of the annexationists will circulate among the people all sorts of canards about financial burdens and high tax rates. Pamphlets will give "forty" and more reasons why people should vote for annexation.

There is no disputing the fact that the corporate influences behind the annexation movement will resort to artful schemes for working up an annexation sentiment. It may be true that some of the advocates of annexation are innocent tools in the hands of the corporate and political influences that want to see annexation brought about. Conferences have been held in Newark to which Bloomfielders have been invited, and at these conferences the real motives for annexation have been concealed, and the "innocents" from this town have been beguiled with a lot of chaff about the material welfare of the town, and how it would be benefited and promoted by annexation. While it has been suspected for some time that corporate influences were at the bottom of the annexation movement, in justice to Mr. Garabrant it should be said that it is not believed that he is aware of that fact.

The strong hand of the corporations will appear within the next three days. The opposition has been firing its ammunition freely for the past three weeks, and the corporations probably think that the opposition has about worked itself out, and a vigorous three days' work with oratory, money and literature will prove effective.

The anti-annexationists will need to be on their guard during the next three days. Just keep an eye on the men who will be doing the campaign work for annexation.

Lo, the Poor Man!

The parents of Abraham Lincoln and James A. Garfield were perhaps in their time as much of a detriment and a financial burden to some small town in the States of Illinois and Ohio as the poor of Bloomfield are alleged to be to-day.

Some well-to-do citizens of Illinois or Ohio, adept in formulating statistics, may at one time have pointed out to taxpayers how that the little Lincolns and the little Garfields cost the town a great deal more to educate than their parents paid in taxes. Looking backward, of course nobody regrets now that it cost more to educate those illustrious young Americans than their parents probably paid in taxes; on the other hand, it is pointed too with pride as the crowning glory of American institutions that the poorest in the land have such grand possibilities open to them as were exemplified in the cases of Lincoln and Garfield.

In the case now being made out in favor of annexation to Newark, the poor man has been put forward as one of the financial burdens of the town and a detriment to its prosperous development. If it should transpire that in the course of events a Lincoln or a Garfield should evolve from some one of Bloomfield's numerous humble homes, people who are now lamenting the presence of the poor would rejoice to think that they participated in the sacrifice that it cost to bring about such a result.

It is proposed now to solve this financial burden of the presence of the poor by annexation to Newark. The proposed remedy is not a solution of the matter; it is simply a shifting of the burden. The poor will be with us in Newark as well as here, and according to accepted theological doctrines the poor are likely to be numerous in heaven. There is no hope anywhere held out that the rich will ever be rid of the eye-sore of the poor, either in this world or the world beyond.

The difficulties confronting Bloomfield, if, indeed, there are any, are not so much due to the presence of the poor as is to the misleading of the poor. Bloomfield has always been largely a community of humble homes, and for many years the governmental policy in vogue here was in harmony with the financial standing of the large majority of the people.

Extreme economy was characteristic

of the conducting of public affairs. The town was called slow, and it was said to be behind the age. The fact was that the people were cutting their cloth according to their means.

Not many years ago some people conceived the idea that the town ought to be more progressive. East Orange and Montclair were continually referred to as examples of progressiveness, and Bloomfield was urged to get in the procession with those towns. A more elaborate and expensive form of government was adopted, and eventually Bloomfield fell a victim to the alluring method of forcing improvements by means of bond issues; by this means sewers were introduced ten years before they were needed in many parts of the town. A system of road improvements by general tax, instead of special assessments, was adopted, and marvellous things were done in the line of public schools. The owners of humble homes were worked up into a state of enthusiasm in favor of these things by people who were better able to pay for them. The poor gave their consent and their vote, and have been led beyond their depth, and they are told that because of their presence here in such large numbers it is useless to look for any material prosperity here in the way of largely increased tax rates.

The thing for the poor to do is to get together and say this thing has got to stop. The poor are in the majority, and government and governmental expenses should be adjusted along lines that will nearly coincide with the financial conditions of the majority of the people.

Valuations Will Be Increased.

The Newark Daily Advertiser in an editorial on the annexation question says: "The idea of a 'Greater Newark' has been so long cherished in Newark, and its realization in the near future so confidently anticipated, that any practical step looking to a consummation so devoutly wished must necessarily meet with public approval."

"In the matter of the proposed annexation of Bloomfield and Valleysburg, therefore, it has been deemed unnecessary, in view of the known public feeling on the subject, to resort to an expensive referendum. Newark's mind is already made up. It is for Bloomfield and Valleysburg to vote upon the question of surrendering their municipal charters to become integral parts of the city which is destined to swallow up the whole county of Essex and all the territory this side of the Hackensack."

"The indebtedness of the two municipalities is considerable, but the assumption of the same by Newark, together with the offsetting public assets and the rates, will not appreciably affect our debt. There will be an increase of the total valuations by Newark's methods approximating ten millions and an addition of about ten thousand to our population."

How is This?

If annexation to Newark becomes an accomplished fact, those church people who are working so assiduously for the accomplishment of this end will be enabled to find plenty of recreation of a Sunday afternoon in the beer garden on Glenwood avenue, after their arduous religious duties of the morning. They will also be enabled to procure "spiritual" inspiration for the evening services in the churches.

Glassware that is not at its best is sadly out of place at a wedding. The best glassware may be found at the Dorringer Glass Stores, 3 and 5 West 19th St., near 5th Avenue, and 36 Murray St., New York.—Advt.

NOTICE.

BLOOMFIELD, N. J., March 26, 1904.
Notice is hereby given that the partnership heretofore existing between Henry J. Speer and Alfred M. Stager, painters and paper-hangers, has this day been dissolved by mutual consent.
Signed,
HENRY J. SPEER,
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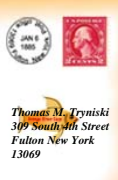
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